Literacy Beyond the Language Arts Classroom Irvin E. Fink, Jr.

Why do you feel a review of SAS is imperative and what are the reasons to teach literacy skills across all content areas?

I feel that it is imperative to review the Standards Aligned System to insure I am the way that best benefits my students. Reviewing and applying the six elements enhances my school district. In these days of comparing scores and providing funds based on these scores, I should use every advantage possible to help my district.

Literacy skills should be taught across the content area for many reasons, but the main reason is that it prepares the students for life. Literacy skills are needed across the spectrum of a life. Without literacy skills, it would not be possible to find a job, apply for a job, pass an assessment the prospective employer may require, and hold on to the job. Pay from the job must be budgeted, bills need to be read, understood, and paid. Purchases made with the pay will eventually include things with directions. They must be read, understood, and followed. If we isolate literacy to one part of the school day we will teach the students to keep literacy separate in their life as well.

Every subject in the school day has an aspect of literacy. In Language Arts we require reading and writing, it is expected. However, to master all subjects reading and writing skills are required. Chemistry requires reading and writing. The text book and lab instructions must be read and understood. If not, learning is curtailed. If the lab report written after an experiment isn’t written correctly the instructor cannot be sure learning has taken place. Even in the Physical Education time slot the student may be required to read and understand rules and directions.